

IV.—On some of the rarer British Gasteropodous Mollusca.

By WILLIAM CLARK, Esq.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

Exmouth, Devon, June 1852.

I BEG the favour of you to record the discovery of some of the rarer British Gasteropodan Mollusca, which have hitherto either escaped the researches of naturalists, or been mentioned so imperfectly as to afford little assistance to science. During the present May and June I have met with the animals of the *Chemnitzia fenestrata*, *Ch. scalaris*, *Ch. clathrata*, *Ch. acicula*; and seen many specimens of the *Ch. elegantissima* and *Ch. pusilla*, mentioned in the 8th vol. of the 'Annals,' N. S. p. 112, which confirm the distinctness of the two, agreeably to M. Philippi. I have likewise reviewed all the *Chemnitzia* of my two memoirs in the 'Annals,' N. S. vol. vi. p. 451, and vol. viii. p. 108, and examined others of the animals of this genus, which with me includes the *Odostomia* and *Eulimella* of authors, and I can confidently state that they do not offer the slightest generic variation; indeed some of them scarcely present, from their similitude, sufficient specific characters.

I cannot doubt but the genus *Chemnitzia* will ultimately comprise these species and some of those of *Aclis*. I consider the Chemnitzian family one of the most interesting and classic of our indigena; nature has stamped it with unmistakable distinction. I think that a disseverance of its integrity by the distribution of any of its species in other genera, can only be looked on as a disruption of natural affinities.

With regard to the *Rissoa*, I have examined the animal of *R. proxima*, which has long been a desideratum, to settle the doubts respecting it and Montagu's *R. vitrea*; and also the *R. punctura* and *R. reticulata* of that author: this last discovery solves another difficulty. The *R. striata*, *R. semistriata*, *R. costata* and *R. soluta* have also been observed. On my return to Bath, I will arrange the minutes of all that are now mentioned. As these animals have long been sought for, I regret that I cannot at once send the descriptive notes; but I am so immersed in the examination and acquirement of these difficult minute objects, that I am obliged to solicit this postponement; and I hope in the interim still further to diminish the number of our rarer desiderata.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM CLARK.

P.S. I may mention that I have taken here a second example

of the *Megathyris cistellula*, and that Mr. Barlee has met with several. I have also dredged at the same haul, in the laminarian zone, live *Lucina borealis* and *L. flexuosa*, and examined both.

June 22, 1852.

I have just captured an example of the species known as the *Lepton convexum*, which will solve the problem of its distinctness or otherwise from the *Lepton nitidum*, concerning the animal of which I have full notes. Whilst I write, I examine my prize, which is very vivacious, free from rusticity, and I feel confident will afford to science the information which has been so long a great desideratum. In the same glass I have a live example of the rare *Chemnitzia obliqua* or *C. decorata*, I cannot yet say which (if they are distinct), for fear of disturbing the animal, which is a splendid, unrecorded creature, displaying specific characters of more than usual beauty and interest. I will prepare without delay an account of my captures.—W. C.

V.—On the Skeleton of the Great Chimpanzee, *Troglodytes gorilla*.
By S. KNEELAND, JUN., M.D., Boston, U.S.A.

THE Boston Society of Natural History has recently received a valuable addition to its cabinet in a nearly complete skeleton of the *Troglodytes gorilla* from Western tropical Africa. It consists of a fine skull, with lower jaw and teeth complete; all the vertebræ except the atlas; the pelvis complete; both scapulæ and clavicles; the humerus, radius, and ulna of left side, the ulna of right side with humerus and radius broken; the right femur, tibia and astragalus, the head and upper part of left femur; all the ribs, except two on the left side; the upper part of the sternum; and a few bones of the hand and foot.

The skull is of great size and strength; the internal capacity is only 27 cubic inches, 8 inches less than in another belonging to the Society. From the great development of the crests, and the massive character of all the bones, this is undoubtedly a male; the jaws, the complete development and worn appearance of the teeth, indicate an adult, if not an old animal. The sutures are hardly discernible, as usual; the superciliary ridges and crests are remarkably developed. The specific characters pointed out by Professor Agassiz, in the decreasing depth of the infra-orbital canal from before backwards, and the projection outwardly of the inner wall of the orbit, are well seen; there are two infra-orbital foramina on each side. The nasal bones are united together, in the lower half presenting traces of a median suture, in the upper half a prominent ridge; the portion of the bone between the inner